The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME XVIII MAY, 1962 NO. 5

RALPH T. MILLER, M.D.
President, H. D. M. S.

Hampden District Medical Society

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The Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult."
Hippocrates

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THE HAMPDEN HIPPOCRAT, MAY, 1962

EDITORIALS

DOUBLE HONOR

The Massachusetts Medical Society has bestowed recently two of its highest honors on members of our District Society. It nominated Dr. Allen S. Johnson to the office of President-elect of the M.M.S., and Dr. Donald R. Hayes to the office of Delegate to the A.M.A.

Both gentlemen are well deserving of their respective nominations. Their record of service to our profession is long and impressive. Dr. Johnson has served as councilor, as member of State Committees on Ethics and Discipline, and of Public Health and Problems Relating to Individual Diseases. He is a past chairman of the Section of Medicine, and a past Orator of the M.M.S. He is also a past president of our District Society, and at the moment is completing a three-year term as Executive Councilor. Dr. Hayes, in his turn, has served as councilor, as Alternate Delegate to the A.M.A. and on various committees, including the Blue Shield Fee Committee of which he is still a member. He is also a past president of the Springfield Academy of Medicine. Their election at the next council meeting is practically a foregone conclusion.

The Hippocrat salutes Drs. Johnson and Hayes on their well-deserved

recognition. It salutes the Nominating Committee of the M.M.S. for its wise choice and selection. And finally it salutes the Hampden District Medical Society for being doubly honored. May we continue striving constantly to improve not only in the field of service but also in the development of good leadership, for without it progress is virtually impossible.

M.

AN ISSUE WORTH REVIEWING

Ordinarily, the editorial policy of the Hippocrat is unequivocally in harmony with that of Hampden District Medical Society. This is as it should be. However, when our District Society takes a stand which is in direct opposition to that of its parent society, The M.M.S., it becomes incumbent upon all of us to re-examine the issue. The case in point is the problem of so-called compulsory membership in the A.M.A. Briefly, Hampden has expressed itself against such membership while the Council of the M.M.S., on two separate occasions, voted on it favorably. Final action is yet to be taken, and this time by all those present and voting at the annual meeting of the M.M.S. scheduled for May 22, 11 A. M.

Since our ultimate goals and purposes are identically the same, why then should Hampden and the M.M.S. assume opposite views on such an important issue? One plausible explanation is the difference in time and energy devoted by the two Societies to a consideration of the problem. Whereas Hampden took action after practically no debate, the Council deliberated at great length at both the October and February meetings. It is not at all unreasonable to assume that had we all had the benefit of the Council's thorough debate, Hampden, too, might have voted in favor of A.M.A. membership.

The word "compulsory" is so charged with emotion as to evoke almost instantaneous, reflex-like resistance. That this reaction is often more emotional than intellectual is clearly indicated by our acceptance of compulsion in other areas. No one, for instance, questions now the wisdom of compulsion in connection with small pox vaccination, school attendance for children, or taxes, and yet, when first introduced, these measures were fought tooth and nail because they smacked of compulsion. The only compulsion we need fear is the kind imposed on us by outsiders, and this is exactly what might happen if we fail to formulate our own rules and regulations to live by. The term compulsory as used in this instance is, therefore, regrettable. It is even irrelevant. It was obviously introduced by those who seek to undermine organized medicine, or would like to see our profession divided into two warring camps. Our

COMPLIMENTS

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organization is based on the "component" principle. The M.M.S. is just as much a component of the A.M.A. as Hampden is a component of the M M.S. To belong to one without belonging to the other is a paradox rarely if ever encountered in other organizations established on the component principle.

How much better would it have been had we voted at our District meeting on the simple question of extending M.M.S. membership to include A.M.A. membership! As a matter of fact, this is the essence of the question. At the meeting of February 7, the Council of the M.M.S. approved a change in the by-laws so that fellowship in the M.M.S. would automatically include membership in the A.M.A.

The proposal is not new. Prior to 1950, membership in the state society did, in fact, include automatic A.M.A. membership. There were no A.M.A. dues, but those who subscribed to the J.A.M.A. were considered "fellows". The A.M.A. financed its many activities from subscriptions and advertisements in its publications. With no other source of revenue, the huge tasks of raising standards of medical education, hospital internships and residencies, investigating pharmaceuticals, exposing nostrums, cults, and charlatanism, were carried out. The A.M.A. was looked upon as a highly scientific professional society, leaving the problem of socio-economics to the various State Societies.

Then, in the early 1940's came the Wagner-Murray-Dingle Bill. This proposed legislation provided for compulsory health insurance. Here is the word, "compulsory" again, but unlike the issue of A.M.A. membership, this was compulsion exerted from the outside. It meant that medical practice was to be government controlled at the expense of the high quality of medical care, as we know it. The threat was great. The A.M.A. recognized the crisis, and was constrained to leave its ivory towers and fight this dangerous threat to the private practice of medicine. New sources of funds were required for the great battle. Dues were necessary and were imposed on members for the first time in 1950. However, members objecting to these dues were permitted to resign from the A.M.A. and still retain their respective State Society membership.

Some members took advantage. They rationalized their resignations by stating that they did not want the A.M.A. "in politics". But the A.M.A. had already been in politics for 10 years. These members did not resign until dues were imposed. It is regrettable that these members were lost, for they weakened the A.M.A., which after all is our chief spokesman and our chief bulwark against Government controlled medicine. Seventy-six per cent of the members of the M.M.S. are still dues paying members of the A.M.A. The

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resignations, obviously due to dues assessments, have been seized upon by anti-medical politicians as indicative of a divided medical profession. One A.M.A. spokesman stated: "There is an increased effect in congressional hearings when the A.M.A. can testify that the great majority of physicians actively support the program it advocates."

The need of strengthening our National Society in these perilous times is great. Thus far, the A.M.A. itself has taken no official stand in regard to compulsory membership. Yet, 13 states have already voted for such automatic membership. New York just voted for it last year. The eyes of the country are now on Massachusetts.

We have been carrying free-loaders, as Dr. Wallwork referred to them, too long. All physicians, whether members of the A.M.A. or not, benefit equally from the A.M.A.'s numerous functions and activities. Why should these physicians, who constitute a minority, be given a free ride at our expense? Because of these non-members, A.M.A. dues will have to go up $10.00 in 1962, and another $10.00 in 1963. Probably no such increases in dues would be necessary if all the members of the State Societies contributed their fair share to the A.M.A. In what other endeavor, industrial, professional, or labor union organization would such a situation be tolerated in which members of a component society did not belong to the parent society?

Let us, therefore, re-exanmine the issue, and let us vote intelligently on proposed changes in by-laws as presented below *. Is a strong, widely supported A.M.A. to the advantage of all of us or, are you allergic to the word "compulsory"?

H.B.T.

*** PROPOSED CHANGE IN BY-LAWS OF M.M.S.**

Chapter I, Section 6. The first paragraph now reads: "Fellows shall be assessed such sums as are voted by the Council, and such additional sums as are voted by the district societies for their own use."

This is revised to read as follows: "*Fellows shall be assessed such sums as are voted by the Council, to include American Medical Association dues,* and such additional sums as are voted by the district societies for their own use.

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President's Page

INAUGURAL REMARKS

First, I wish to thank the members of the Society for electing me to the office of president. It is a position of honor, and I shall try to be worthy of it. It is also a position involving more and more work, and demanding more and more time away from the practice of medicine.

The first duty of the President on assuming office is the appointment of committees. These committees were selected before the annual meeting, which means that they were made up without the knowledge of who the elected officers will be. Last minute changes are, therefore, often necessary.

In formulating our committees for the coming year I've tried to utilize the four ingredients a bride traditionally wears on her wedding day: (1) "Something old", by retaining several of the older committee members because of their experience and sagacity; (2) "Something new", by appointing younger men for the purpose of adding new blood and developing future leadership; (3) "Something borrowed", by seeking the advice of committee chairmen and of others familiar with the mechanics and needs of our Society; and finally (4) "Something blue", to symbolize, the chairman of an inactive committee.

The president appoints all committees except the Executive and Grievance, which are elected by the membership; and the Board of Editors which is elected by the Executive Committee. The elected Public Relation and Legislative Councilors automatically serve as chairmen of their respective committees. The Nominating Committee is not due for appointment until the September meeting of the Society.

This being springtime the temptation is to postpone committee work until fall. This, I believe, is a mistake. The main reason for naming the committees at the annual meeting is to afford them an opportunity to hold at least one or two meetings before the warm summer days roll around. As a member ex-officio of all committees (except nominating) I hope to attend as many meetings as possible — all I ask is a notice or reminder. A complete listing of committees appears on page 16.

As we all know we have in the past year embarked on the ambitious undertaking of a central office plus an executive secretary, Mrs. Purdy. This has already borne fruit. Communication between committees and administration has improved considerably. The same is true of Public and Press relations. The multitude of mailings, we hope, have kept you apprised of the doings of your Society. We hope also for better cooperation with Mrs. Purdy in her effort to complete the files of members of the Society.

The budget for the coming year has been computed by Treasurer Wales, who has also introduced a new bookkeeping system to take care of Social Security, withholding tax, etc. Our budget is tight, but we must realize that our Society has voted to have four free dinners a year, and these are very expensive. I wonder if a business meeting without a free dinner, especially the Annual Meeting, might not prove beneficial to the budget and the Society. At the moment we are proud of our attendance at meetings, but we can't help

wondering how many come more for the dinner than for the meeting. A meeting without a dinner would be one way of finding out.

I need hardly remind you that these are critical times for medicine at all levels: District, State and National. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done. I believe that we can accomplish a great deal, but only if we roll up our sleeves and work together as a team. Hampden is a great Society. It has a glorious tradition — let's try and live up to it!

May I again thank you for the honor of being elected your President. I pledge myself to your service.

Ralph Miller

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
(April 24, 1962)

Meeting, which is held at Wyckoff Country Club, Holyoke, is called to order by President Whitney at 8:15 p.m. . . . 169 are in attendance against 225 reservations . . . Dr. Palermo presents series of lantern slides with sound, entitled "Health Care for the Aged". (The K-A bill is only the beginning. Once the principle of health care under Social Security has been established it will be extended to cover ultimately everybody) . . .

Dr. Hurley reports on recent legislative trip to Washington (see page 22) . . . A taped address by Dr. Edward Annis is presented. Its title: "The Medical Profession's Point of View of the K-A Bill" . . . Dr. Palermo explains that the main reason for these presentations is to stir all of us to greater effort and action . . .

President Whitney introduces Dr. Furcolo as one of four Hampden physicians who have been in practice more than 50 years . . . He calls for a moment of silence in tribute to deceased members . . . He announces that H.D.M.S. has become a member of the Joint Civic Agencies . . .

Treasurer Wales' report is accepted . . . His recommendation that annual dues be $35.00 is approved . . . Dr. Susat's recommendation that resolution of Staff of Providence Hospital be approved, is referred to Executive Committee . . . Report of Public Health Committee bearing recommendations is accepted . . .

Before calling for report of Nominating Committee, Pres. Whitney expresses his appreciation to all committees for their cooperation and assistance during his administration . . . Report of Nominating Committee is approved unanimously (see page 14) . .

President-elect Miller takes over . . . He expresses appreciation for honor of office . . . His Inaugural Remarks, he announces, will appear in next issue of Hippocrat (see page 5) . . . He presents his committees for the coming year (see page 16) . . . Meeting adjourns at 10 P. M. . . .

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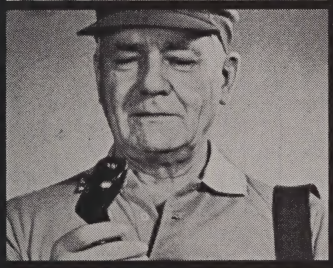

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*Schaefer, L. E.: Clin. Med. 8:1343, 1961.

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AUXILIARY DOINGS

The Annual Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Hampden District Medical Society was held at the Longmeadow Country Club on Tuesday, April 24, 1962. The following slate of officers was elected for the coming year:

President, Mrs. James W. Hartshorn, Jr.; President-elect, Mrs. Charles Diamond; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. F. A. Post; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Roger G. Dudis; Treasurer, Mrs. Harry Anton, and Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Raymond Conway. Directors:

Mrs. Charles S. D'Avanzo, Mrs. Walter Williams, and Mrs. Aloysius Bloniarz.

Mrs. Harry J. Morrin, Roxbury, president of the Massachusetts Medical Auxiliary, was guest of honor at the luncheon meeting. Mrs. Morrin conducted a formal installation ceremony for the new officers. Inscribed gold discs were presented to three members for outstanding service to the Auxiliary, these members are: Mrs. Roger Cheney, Past State President and National Director; Mrs. George Ross, also Past State President, and Mrs. Leslie Parent, Editor-in-chief of the "Bay-Stater", official publication of the Massachusetts Medical Auxiliary. Mrs. Charles S. D'Avanzo presided at the meeting, and Mrs. Emanuel Wiedman was in charge of the program. Luncheon arrangements were under the direction of Mrs. Joseph Baker.

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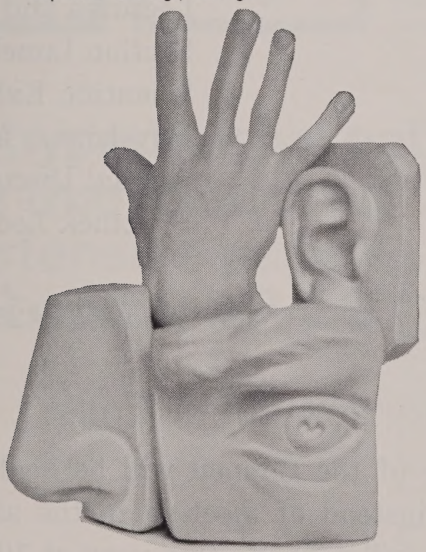

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181st ANNUAL MEETING

MASS. MEDICAL SOCIETY

TIME:	Tue., Wed., Thurs. May 22, 23, and 24
PLACE:	Statler Hilton Hotel Boston
AGENDA:	Annual Meeting Concurrent Sessions "How To Do It" Talks Lectures and Panels Section Luncheons Scientific Exhibits Physicians' Art Show Annual Discourse Shattuck Lecture
ANNUAL DINNER:	Wed., May 23, 7 p.m.

ATTENTION COUNCILORS!

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, May 21. However, instead of meeting in the afternoon and evening, the Council will convene this year at 10:30 A.M.

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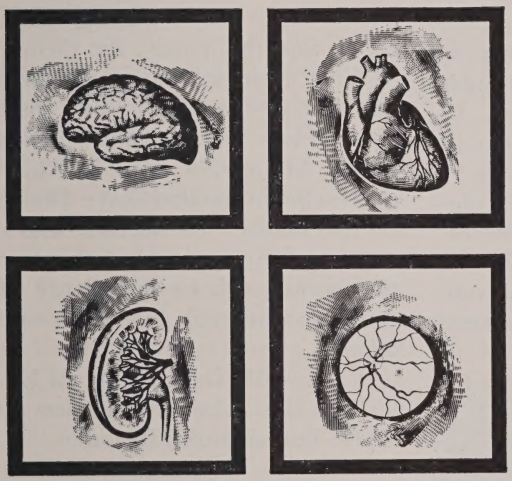

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CORRESPONDENCE

An Appeal for Benevolence

Dear Hippocrat:

Your suggestion, that the doctors of Hampden District should be reminded once again of the good works of the Massachusetts Medical Benevolent Society, is timely, and I thank you for making it. In this exciting, hectic world, changes in our status, for good or for bad, can occur with remarkable suddenness. "It can't happen to me," we think, but sometimes it does happen, and then either we doctors or our widows are in trouble.

It was my own Grandfather, Dr. Francis Minot, who called to order the first meeting of doctors gathered "to prepare a plan for the relief of destitute physicians and their families". This was on March 19, 1857 - one hundred and five years ago. The resolution began: "Whereas it sometimes happens that worthy members of the medical profession become reduced in circumstances, we . . . etc."

Since this beginning, the Society has prospered and has been of great service to many beneficiaries. Since 1953, when Dr. A. William Reggio became Secretary, it has prospered even more. There are now over a thousand members who pay their dues of five dollars a year, but the Massachusetts Medical Society has nearly seven thousand members. Where are the rest of them? Why do only fourteen per cent appreciate what the Benevolent Society is trying to do?

We do have money from our invested capital and from special funds, as well as from dues, and we have a contribution from the Massachusetts Medical Society, so that last year we could make grants to twenty-four worthy people, which averaged about $875 apiece. This is not good enough, for we ought to provide twice that amount. Within the month five new requests for aid have come in, and if our Committee finds them worthy, we must try to find the money for them.

What about it? Can you help us to enroll more doctors in our membership? Each new member helps by paying his modest dues, but his support helps in another way. The greater the number of doctors who demonstrate their approval of this Society, the greater will be the chance of receiving substantial contributions from others.

Francis M. Rackemann, M.D.
Pres. Mass. Medical Benevolent Society
266 Beacon Street, Boston

The A.M.A. Meeting

Dear Hippocrat:

Each year at this season it is customary for the president of the American Medical Association to extend an invitation to all American physicians to attend the AMA's annual meeting. Each year it is also expected of the president to state that "this year's meeting will be the best yet".

This year I have no hesitation in

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proclaiming that the 1962 Annual Meeting June 24-28 at Chicago will be an excellent scientific session that will offer much solid, comprehensive information that will be of great value to those of us in the practice of medicine.

As usual, the program for the meeting is scheduled for publication May 19 in the Journal of the AMA. You will be able to judge for yourself whether I am right in saying that the program for the 1962 meeting is the finest ever assembled for the benefit of the American medical practitioner.

Theme of the meeting will be "Medicine in the Atomic Age". This is a broad, generalized theme that covers everything in medicine. And that is just what the scientific program will do.

The twenty-one sections concentrating on the medical specialties are pooling their talents and resources to bring the top men in the nation to deliver papers in areas such as Nuclear Medicine, Mental Health, Tissue Transplantation, Inflammatory and Ulcerative Diseases of the Small Intestine, Inhalation Therapy, Clinical Cardiology and Anticoagulant Therapy, and Diagnostic Problems and Exfoliative Cytologic Methods.

And for those of you who swore "never again!" following the last Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1956, allow me to point out that the 1962 meeting will be in the swank new McCormick Place, completely air conditioned. The steamy heat and cramped quarters of the old Navy Pier are just an unpleasant memory.

See you in June in Chicago!

Leonard Larson, M. D.
President, A.M.A.

Physicians Wanted

Dear Hippocrat:

The Visiting Nurse Association has requested that the Hampden District Medical Society assist them in the care of Old Age Assistance cases who do not have the services of their own physicians. There is a clause in the V. N. A. by-laws requiring that all patients they visit must be seen by a physician at least once every four months.

Your Committee on Tax Supported Medicine suggests that any physician willing to assist by making the occasional call necessary for such patients do so by contacting the Visiting Nurse Association. The fee is $5.00, but at least you are sure of it.

Please volunteer.

Harry L. Roberts, M. D.
Chairman

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REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
April 24, 1962

Your Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the year 1962-1963:

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Vice-President & President-Elect:	Martin B. Murray
Secretary:	Ray T. Smith
Treasurer:	B. Lincoln Wales
Commissioner of Trials:	Alfonso A. Palermo
Supervisory Censor:	Samuel F. Potsubay

Censors:

William B. Coen	Joseph Pendola
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Councilors:

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Joseph M. Baker	Theodore R. Miner
Wayne C. Barnes	Robert D. O'Malley
Robert W. Emery	Alfonso A. Palermo
Edwin J. Gillis	Norman A. Pokorny
Donald R. Hayes	Samuel F. Potsubay
Myles H. Illingworth	Lawrence A. Putnam
Allen S. Johnson	Thomas F. Reilly
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Representative to State Committee on Tax Supported Medical Care
Harry L. Roberts

Executive and Grievance Committee *Terms to expire* 1965
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FOR 1962 - 63

President Miller receiving gavel from retiring President Whitney

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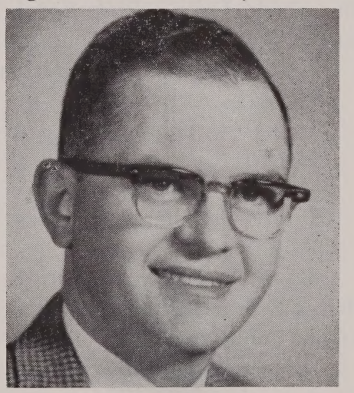

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PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

(April, 1962)

Summary of Activities

1. Weekly Newspaper Series (Springfield Republican) by Society Members: fifteen articles under heading H.D.M.S. (three additional to come). (See June issue.)

2. Series of six "Your Doctor and You" (Springfield Republican, no cost.)

3. Numerous visits to Springfield Newspaper.

4. Two paid ads in local newspapers. 1. In reference to the King-Anderson Bill and Kerr-Mills Law, cost $141.12. 2. In reference to combined H.D.M.S.-Westover-Springfield College—Emergency First Aid program ($90.00).

5. Speakers Roster on file (approximately eighty members on file at headquarters).

6. Your chairman joined Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Joint Civic Agencies (personal expense).

7. Appointed sub-committee chairman of J.C.A. Congressional Action Committee on Social Security Expansion. Developed committee of fourteen business and professional leaders.

8. Attended four J.C.A. meetings on Congressional Action, representing social security expansion sub-committee.

9. Attended United States Chamber of Commerce Aircade, Providence, R. I., Feb. 27th.

10. Attended two Public Relations Meetings in Boston.

11. Arranged meeting for members of H.D.M.S. to meet with Congressman Boland re K.A. Bill (February 10th) at J.C.A. Chambers.

12. Arranged and attended meeting in Washington, D. C. (personal expense) with Congressman Boland of Massachusetts Delegation of Physicians to meet with their respective congressmen (March 28th). Additional representative from H.D.M.S. Dr. Frank Hurley (State Society) ex[illegible] pense).

13. Developed H.D.M.S. Congressional Action Committee of fifty. List attached.

14. Developed United States Chamber of Commerce Kit of twenty-seven slides and tape on material in reference to HR4-222.

15. Program of action (reference

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K-A Kennedy "Push") for Annual Meeting.

16. Procured Record "Coffee Cup" - Ronald Reagan talking against K.-A. Bill.

17. Procured Dr. Edward Annis' tape on Kennedy Medical Care Program for Annual Meeting and Radio Broadcast.

18. AMA film for pre-medical students shown at the local colleges as well as University of Mass. and Amherst by Dr. Maloney.

Suggestions:

1. PR money should not be appropriated for other needs.
   In accordance with a vote of the Society several years ago $5.00 of the dues were tagged for PR expense. This year there were 460 paid members making the PR budget $2300.
2. Part-time professional Public Relations assistance to be included in the budget.
3. Science Fairs in the schools to be reconsidered.

Many thanks to the Officers, Mrs. Purdy, Committee members, and particularly the members who cooperated so magnificently in the newspaper series of articles.

A. A. Palermo, M.D.,
Chairman

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EMERGENCY K-A MEETING IS HELD

At the call of President Whitney a special meeting was held at the Hampden District headquarters on Monday, May 7, 1962. The purpose of the meeting was to consider ways and means of counteracting the forthcoming all-out effort on the part of the political exponents of the King-Anderson Bill. In attendance were some 20 people including the Executive Committee, several additional members of the Society and our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Purdy. Present also were Mr. Paul Greeley of the Joint Civic Agencies, and Mr. Harold G. Ingraham, actuary of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company.

It was noted that on May 20th President Kennedy will address a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden, New York City, and that this will be televised nationwide. Following this, it was understood, the administration is planning to launch an intensive, colossal campaign to stimulate, in one way or another, public support of the K-A Bill.

It was agreed that our political leadership has failed to present before the public a true picture of King-Anderson and Kerr-Mills legislation, and that the entire appeal has been emotional rather than realistic or logical. Our first and most important step is to impress upon the public that there is no such thing as free medical care, and to warn it against mortgaging its future.

However, before the physician can educate the public he must familiarize himself personally with all the facts pertaining to K-A and K-M legislation. For this purpose informational pamphlets were distributed by Dr. Palermo, Chairman of our Public Relations Committee. Copies of these circulars are available at Hampden headquarters. Most of those in attendance volunteered to speak before groups or to submit items to newspapers on health care for the aged. Attention was called also to a letter from Dr. Wallwork, President of the M.M.S., urging all of us to write to our congressmen and senators, and to get at least two of our patients to do the same. What was stressed at the meeting most of all, however, was that time was of the essence because congressional action on the King-Anderson bill is expected to take place shortly after the beginning of June.

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COMING EVENTS

HAMPDEN DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS,
MAY 15 and JUNE 19, 1962

M.M.S. ANNUAL MEETING, BOSTON, MAY 22, 23, and 24, 1962

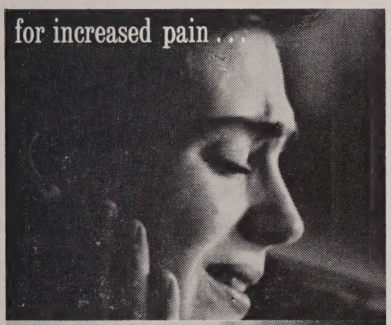
A.M.A ANNUAL MEETING, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JUNE 25 - 29, 1962

PEDIATRIC GUEST SPEAKERS, SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL, MAY 22, 1962

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CHEST PHYSICIANS, MORRISON HOTEL,
CHICAGO, JUNE 21 - 25, 1962

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION, CHICAGO, JUNE 23 - 24

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY'S 14TH ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE ASSEMBLY,
JULY 30 - AUGUST 3, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



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ward Boland and again discussed the problem of King-Anderson at some length. A summary of this and a discussion will be brought up later in this presentation.

The first hurdle the administration faces is getting the King-Anderson Bill out of the Ways and Means Committee of the House where it is now under study. Most representatives encountered, in fact all except Rep. Burke, who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee, had the very strong feeling that the Bill would in all probability be reported out of this committee this year. All the Congressmen and Senators indicated that the Bill would be passed by both Houses once it reached the House floor. Should difficulty be encountered in getting the bill out of committee it is likely that it would be added as an amendment to a bill against which the Senators may not wish to vote directly on the Senate floor by Senator Anderson and would then win passage in both Houses beyond all doubt. All the Congressmen interviewed, except for Speaker McCormick, indicated that they would be pleased if the King-Anderson Bill never came to a vote in the present Congress. Most of the Congressmen and Senators clearly indicated that it is not the type of legislation that they wish to be recorded against. "They all indicated that they have to have something to vote for in place of King-Anderson". A positive position on the matter of aged health care must be presented. Kerr-Mills alone is apparently not acceptable. The administration and Health, Education and Welfare have been very active in sabotaging Kerr-Mills and in holding back its implementation throughout the country.

At the moment the Kennedy administration has brought great pressure to bear on the Ways and Means Committee to get out education, tax, tariff and urban affairs legislation and has not as yet pushed medical aid through Social Security. A nationwide expensive program is underway. The kick-

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off is thought to have been the meeting of dissenting doctors including the Drs. Means, Barr & Co. from Mass. who, as you know were invited to the White House to help present the picture of doctors in favor of King-Anderson. This is to be climaxed by a large aged rally under the direction of President Kennedy in New York and which is to occur in May, 1962.

Speaker McCormick has said "By the time this Bill gains passage it will be emasculated by amendments to the point where the A.M.A. won't even recognize it".

President Kennedy is said to have indicated that "If I cannot get Social Security legislation this year, I will let it die". There is serious doubt about how much compromise he will accept. However, veto of this type of legislation for the president is obviously exceedingly difficult.

The congressmen from the State of Mass. and presumably its senators, with the exception of Benjamin Smith, are not at all well informed. Pushing information in their direction, particularly of lay origin, seems to be the most effective modus operandi at the moment.

A speech by Hon. Thomas Curtis of Mo. on the floor of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, March 6, 1962, indicates the striking weaknesses of King-Anderson legislation and should be made available to as many as possible. I have personally requested that Mr. Everett Spencer forward at his earliest opportunity the very latest material on what Mass. Blue Cross-Blue Shield are able to do for voluntary coverage of the aged beyond age sixty-five at the present time and what is proposed for the immediate future. I have also requested that the Washington office of A. M.A. make available to me for the use of the District Society the latest information on the projected plan of voluntary medical care of the aged through the new National Blue Shield Group Program.

Frank E. Hurley, M.D.

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CROSS- EXAMINATION OF EXPERT WITNESS

Facts: The counsel for the plaintiff in a personal injury action, in cross-examining the defendant's medical expert on the issue of the extent of the plaintiff's injuries, based many of his questions on the contents of a medical journal article. The expert had not based his testimony on direct examination on the article's contents and had, in fact, stated that a good part of it was sheer nonsense. Was the cross-examination based on the article's contents proper?

Decision: No.

The Court said that a medical expert who bases his opinion on certain medical works may be cross-examined thereon for the purpose of contradicting his testimony. But it is improper cross-examination to refer to a medical authority when the witness has based his opinion upon his experience and such cross-examination is particularly improper.

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Vice-president	Omar T. Pace, M. D.
Secretary	Emanual Wiedman, M. D.
Treasurer	Carroll Bryant, M. D.

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DR. REILLY ELECTED

Following the Annual Meeting (April 24) Hampden councilors met at the call of Secretary Ray Smith. The following were elected: Executive Councilor, Thomas F. Reilly; Alternate, Robert D. O'Malley.

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